



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

April 12, 1999

H.R. 1058

Census in the Schools Promotion Act

As ordered reported by the House Committee on Government Reform on March 17, 1999

The Census in the Schools Project, implemented by the Bureau of the Census within the Department of Commerce, is designed to promote participation in decennial censuses by offering federally funded educational materials about the census to certain educators. According to Scholastic Inc., the publishing firm under contract to develop teaching materials for the project, the Bureau of the Census invites about 40 percent of all elementary and secondary school administrators, elementary school teachers, and secondary school teachers of math, geography, and social studies to participate in the project. H.R. 1058 would require the Secretary of Commerce to provide written invitations to all such educators.

According to the Department of Commerce, \$18.5 million of its appropriation for fiscal year 1999 was allocated to the Census in Schools Project. Based on information provided by the department and Scholastic Inc., CBO estimates that implementing H.R. 1058 would increase discretionary spending by \$6 million in fiscal year 2000, assuming appropriation of the amount necessary to cover the cost of the additional invitations and subsequent mailings of the educational materials.

H.R. 1058 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act. Any costs incurred by state, local or tribal governments as a result of participation in this program would be voluntary.

The CBO staff contact is Megan Carroll. This estimate was approved by Paul N. Van de Water, Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.